

As we continue our debate this year about reducing spending and reducing the deficit, I do not think that we can credibly move forward without looking at the second largest expense of the federal government – defense spending.

Yesterday, during the debate on the FY2011 budget, I introduced an amendment to reduce defense and Homeland Security spending by 2.5% from last year's levels. The bipartisan opposition to this proposal said I was "slashing" and using a "hatchet" on our national security. 2% - slashing? Really?

Anyway, I did not expect it to pass and, in fact, it failed by a vote of 68-357. But, I remember when I first got to Congress and Rep. Jeff Flake's (R-AZ) earmark reduction amendments would get only 30 votes or so. Now, 5 years later, there are no earmarks. The journey of a thousand miles.....

Congress does not yet grasp the severity of our debt problem. But, they will. I just hope it's sooner rather than later.

Here is a video of my 3 ½ minute introduction of this amendment:



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